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Appendix 2

Ms Patsy Dell
Head of Planning
Cambridge City Council
The Guildhall
Market Square
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17th August 2012

Dear Patsy

Consultation on Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options Report

Thank you for consulting us regarding this first phase of the review of the Local Plan by the City Council. I attach the draft main response to the questions posed in the document for your consideration and look forward to working with you over the coming months as you proceed towards the Submission version of the Plan. The comments are subject to formal Cabinet approval on 17th September.

At this stage, I would like to stress that the County Council supports the Vision you have set out for Cambridge towards 2031 as it appears in Option 1. The Cambridge area already has a world class reputation as a leader in education, research, and innovation, all of which are fundamental to maintaining the momentum of economic growth so significant for Cambridge itself and the UK economy as a whole. A clear focus on those strategic objectives and priorities which maintain and enhance economic growth is essential to meet the needs of our residential and business communities over the life of the Plan. The Local Plan should aim to support the competitive edge that Cambridge currently enjoys as this is vital in attracting further inward investment in strategic infrastructure and in supporting projects/proposals which enhance the quality of life in our communities, and particularly for those who require additional support.

The County Council's Integrated Plan 2012/13, agreed in February this year, addresses the challenges facing all local authorities, an increase in demand for services from an increased and ageing population and inflation, together with a fall in core Government funding. To meet these challenges, the Integrated Plan has three priorities:

- developing the local economy for the benefit of all
- helping people live healthy and independent lives; and
- supporting and protecting vulnerable people.

The Integrated Plan has been informed by public consultation, and the priorities define the Plan.

Public authorities have an obligation to consider how we can better support the delivery of improved outcomes for local communities across Cambridgeshire and foster the delivery of sustainable development. The County Council fully acknowledges the national policy presumption in favour of sustainable development. The County Council is mindful of



paragraph 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework, “....to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system.” It is considered that the choices made at this stage will need to be flexible to take account of changes in the evidence base across different geographic areas, for example the Travel to Work Area and the area covered by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

This could include unmet need not previously identified, for example demographic changes disaggregated by age, ethnicity or number at district and county level available from the 2011 Census figures. The County Council’s Research Group has been assessing the Census data for each district since publication in July. I am told that there is a 15.1% difference for Cambridge between the mid year estimates published by ONS for 2011 and the enumerated population recorded in March 2011.

The Local Plan is being prepared when budgets are reduced and resources are stretched and the definition of strategic priorities up to 2031 will require greater collaboration than ever before. Good examples of this in Cambridgeshire are the preparation of the Transport Strategy up to 2050, and the establishment of the Joint Strategic Planning Unit. Our aim is to work in an integrated way with our City and South Cambridgeshire partners to ensure that the Transport Strategy and the Local Plans fit well together and promote a sustainable pattern of development. Clearly the location of future growth and employment is critically important to ensure it is sustainable and the need to travel is reduced where possible. Accommodating future growth to support a thriving city centre in an environmentally sustainable way at the same time as managing the demand for travel is a complex balance to strike but one that must be achieved in order to ensure the continued growth and prosperity of Cambridge and its contribution to the national economy..

I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries relating to the main response or wish to discuss this further, please call Graham Thomas our Head of Growth and Economy on 01223 728353 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Ian Bates

Enc.